

JOB NEWS

STEPPING UP AND OUT

The purpose of The Society's Industrial Division is much more than just providing jobs for the blind, although this is one of our major accomplishments. Our employment is averaging nearly sixty workers and future expansion seems almost inevitable.

We are equally proud, however, when our employees are able to leave The Society for new jobs or further job training. Here are some of our workers progressing on to better things.

- Eloise Bergman, Irene Thunder-sky, and Irene Barnhardt were hired recently as saccharin testers by Maumee Chemical.
- Russell Deehr returned to his job at the Chevrolet plant.
- Hobert Harrison will go to the Columbus Association for the Blind and train as a power machine operator.
- Louis Quiroga will train at Charlton College, Newbury, Ohio, as a masseur.

* * *

Of course, many Toledo Businesses help in other ways, too. For example, you may have noticed that each time a car with a dog inside arrives at the drive-in window of the Ohio Citizens Bank, the customer is given a small bag of doggie tidbits. These treats are packaged by five blind persons who are unable to work at The Society workshop. Over 10,000 have been given to Ohio Citizen's depositors since 1964.

NEW HOPE FOR BLIND (Con't. from Page 1)

Hadley's found that Lloyd was adept with his fingers and soon had him running machinery on a full-time basis. With this employment and his disability income, Lloyd began to live a normal life which included marriage, children, and home ownership.

While we at the Society were pointing to Lloyd's personal success as an example for those similarly disabled; the workman's compensation board developed interest for quite another reason. In 1964 they ruled that despite Lloyd's continuing blindness, he was not entitled to further state compensation. For Lloyd, this meant loss of home, car (his wife is sighted) and a return to a standard of living not much better than before he had found his job.

Contact with attorneys revealed that this type of ruling had never been adjudicated in Ohio or perhaps in the nation. The one overlying reason was the cost of litigation to re-establish complete disability, which could reach \$3,000 or more. Few disabled persons could risk the expense, for if they lost, they would be in debt for life.

Learning of Holdridge's personal problem and realizing the effect of this ruling on the Society's entire rehabilitation efforts, Society President, John Goerlich accepted the case as a personal challenge and arranged for the legal counsel of Fred Smith of the firm of

EARLY MORNING LABOR RELATIONS

Recognizing that job skills are only part of the training necessary to hold a job in industry, The Society sets aside one hour on the first Thursday of each month for a "Workers' Breakfast." This gathering of workers and staff enables us to discuss our current business, exchange suggestions, and explain problems that have arisen during the month. In a very real sense it is our own approach to labor-management relations.



At early morning breakfast meeting (above) foreman details day's work.

(Right) Workers usually have some opinions, too!



Cobourn, Smith, Rohrbacher and Gibson. It was then a long three year court battle began. The Workmen's Compensation Commission declined to reverse their decision so the case was taken to the Court of Appeals in Columbus. There, the court ruled in favor of Holdridge, but the commission appealed to the Supreme Court. It was not until July of 1967 that the Supreme Court, by unanimous decision, upheld the Court of Appeals' decision returning Lloyd's original award and guaranteeing the award would continue for life, because Lloyd is permanently and totally blind.

The full impact of this decision will not be known for several years, but here in Toledo where the case has already received some attention in the newspapers, our executive director, Lyle Kirk, reports more than a dozen calls from blind people asking for job training information now that the fear of losing their state income has been overcome.

Admittedly, the decision may add slightly to our compensation costs, but much more importantly—it corrects a serious social injustice. It also provides the needed incentive for many handicapped to become rehabilitated with the knowledge that they can earn and improve their station in life as they learn.

Our congratulations to Lloyd Holdridge and all those who made this decision possible.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

Vol. 4 No. 2 October, 1967

1819 Canton Ave.

Telephone 243-8239

OHIO SUPREME COURT RULING GIVES NEW HOPE TO BLIND

HOLDRIDGE CASE SETS NATIONAL PRECEDENT

Up to a few weeks ago, the price of rehabilitation for Ohioans who had become permanently and totally disabled through industrial accidents could be the loss of their state industrial compensation awards. Now, however, perhaps because that lovely lady who holds the scales of justice is also blind, a much needed victory has been won for our handicapped people.

In a precedent-setting decision, the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled the industrial awards made for permanent and total disabilities are permanent and cannot be voided or reduced as a person—thru rehabilitation—learns a new trade and earns new income. Previously, as a person's income exceeded the compensation, the allowance could be reduced proportionally—or as in the case of Lloyd Holdridge, one of our own members of the Toledo Society For The Blind, canceled altogether.

Lloyd Holdridge lost his sight in an industrial explosion in 1946. He was just nineteen years old. He also lost his job and—momentarily at least—all hope of the personal and financial success held by young men of that age. His compensation for his loss was a weekly allowance granted under the Ohio workman's compensation law.

Money is always needed desperately, but when adjusting to disability a person needs to be busy and to have hope that life can be improved. Holdridge came to the Toledo Society For The Blind and soon developed confidence to move about and to master new job skills. He first learned chair caning and later found work as a part time horn tester for Hadley Mfg. Co.

(Con't on Page 4)

CHRISTMAS - 1967 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Don't Delay Ordering Your Christmas Cards

Summer has passed and now we can concentrate on fall and winter activities. One job that is always good to get out of the way early in the season, is the ordering of Christmas cards. The Society will have Christmas Cards again this year. Sample cards and an easy-to-use, postage paid, order blank are enclosed.

When you order your cards from The Society, your friends will have a happy thought knowing they received cards with a two-fold meaning. First, the thought of friendship, always special at this time of year, and second, knowing the cards represent a contribution to The Society For The Blind's activities. These extra activities not provided for by the United Appeal Funds include the summer camp, family nights, help for blind bowlers, and Santa Claus' annual visit to our blind children. All these are very important to our total rehabilitation program.

To Order Your Cards

Just fill in the card enclosed. Order any amount you wish, with or without an imprint (up to three lines). Remember you will not be charged or invoiced for these cards. Instead, you are only asked to make a contribution to The Society. Anything over the amount you usually pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

THE SIGN POST

BY

DOROTHEA LUMM MANN



It has been wisely said that "Happiness consists in activity—it is a running stream, not a stagnant pool." I find myself wanting to ignore this philosophy and take the easier, yes, lazier way to happiness and wake up after somebody has accepted the challenge—when the job is finished. The folly of this is so apparent when we meet a truly happy person.

It was my privilege to meet and visit with a very wonderful person just recently, who in spite of her sightlessness, has lead a very active, a more-than-ordinary life. As I stepped upon the porch of her neatly kept home, the sunshine danced about the door—a prelude to the brightness of her smile as she greeted me. During the brief visit I had with her, I learned a little about her—how she acquired a college education, helped her husband (also sightless) in his business, raised a wonderful son, and still found time to help friends around her. Even now, a grandmother, and a widow, she teaches Sunday School with a zest and a purpose unmatched by those of us prone to sit by and "Let George Do It." (I heard this from friends.) Pictures of a happy family, a piano, many, many books in braille, and curtains splashed with soft pink, help to make up very cheerful surroundings and I contemplated, as I sat there, the personality and strength of a soul such as hers.

There are many folks who live extraordinary lives, whose contributions to society cannot be measured. Their ambitious, interested absorption in the social life about them, their efforts to not only take care of their personal needs but help others too, is an inspiration.

Working with The Society For The Blind and learning to know some of these folks—some personally and others through beautiful letters I have received—has taught me that I, too, have an obligation to others—and in the fulfillment of that obligation my life becomes richer and happier. Isn't that, after all, the reason for living?

If you wish to add meaning to your life—a sense of fulfillment, the social agencies of this city can help you do this. I'm sure The Society For The Blind would welcome you.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON

OPERATION LAZY EYE

OPERATION LAZY EYE, our eye-testing program for pre-school children, is now swinging into its third year, and, according to volunteer program chairman, Mrs. John Mezaros, has proven to be one of our most worthwhile and valuable undertakings. Of the nearly 3,000 children tested by Society volunteers, over 10% have required referral to ophthalmologists for suspected eye problems and further examination. Our only regret is the still small number of children we have been able to test.

The Lazy Eye program was originally conceived to check all preschool youngsters in Toledo for signs of amblyopia ex anopsia, commonly called Lazy Eye. To be corrected, amblyopia must be detected before the child is three or four years old. Otherwise, the child will be headed for serious eye trouble and possible blindness. That is why it is so important for parents to have their preschool children's eyes tested.

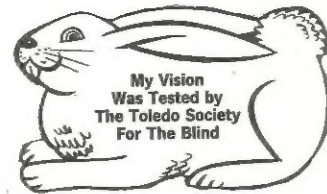
To be more of a help to our community in this important project, The Society hopes to open its doors one half day a week to all parents wishing to bring their children in for this relatively simple, but important eye test.

The speed with which we get the expanded program in operation always is dependent on the number of volunteers willing to help.

Our present volunteers (18 in number) are working one morning a week, in teams of two or three people. These teams have been traveling to our neighborhood centers, schools, and other community gathering places, testing children enrolled in the Head Start Program. Delta Gamma Society members are also conducting a testing program for children in private nursery schools.

There are no special qualifications needed to become a volunteer in the Lazy Eye Program. All you need is time (about half a day a week) and love of little children. The Society does provide a training program which involves two four-hour sessions. The first session is held at The Society and the second session at the Toledo Day Nursery.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like further information regarding OPERATION LAZY EYE, call 243-8239. Your interest will accelerate the program for the new year and encourage those who are already doing such a fine job.



Mrs. John Mezaros (center) conducts an eye screening training class for new volunteers. Mrs. Russell Sells (seated) and Mrs. William Rose. Also attending the most recent Society's class was Mr. John Fantane, School nurse for Larc Lane School.



PORTRAIT OF A MAN

If you had been standing in front of the closed door to a neat and cheerfully decorated office at The Society For The Blind headquarters last week you would have heard a raised voice—forceful, yet kind—say, "Mother, you are killing your blind child with kindness. Worse, you are not going to be here forever and who is going to take care of her when you're gone? It's time to cut your apron strings and let her earn her own independence." Mother, a well dressed matronly lady, left visibly shaken with a tear in her eye. She knew what she must do.

In the opposite direction the man who had been sitting behind the desk was already quick-stepping down the back hall to the adjacent factory building that houses The Society's industrial division. It seemed one of the customers had sent some muffler clamps that were too big for the cartons or cartons too small for the clamps. The problem was easily solved, but time is important when sixty blind or disabled production workers are waiting for a fast decision.

On his way back, he stopped—only for a moment to pass a friendly word to the kitchen staff busily preparing lunch for 50 "loaned business executives" meeting in The Society's dining room to kick off this year's United Appeal Fund Drive. He couldn't stay for the tour of The Society facilities that always follows for he had to rush to make a report to The Society's board of directors and then drive over to Waite High School to present a "Save Your Sight" program requested for the school's general assembly.

He was back that day about 3 P.M. to catch up on his paper work—which consists of about an even mixture of budgets and reports from The Society's staff of social workers who are now directly involved in helping over 900 area blind people.

A quick dinner that night was spent with his wife at The Society's monthly Family Night and then off to preside as chairman of the Big Brother Evaluation Committee.

The wearing of many hats and the maddening pace set should be enough to wear out most any man. For our executive director, Lyle Kirk, however, it all seems to be just part of a normal day and typifies the drive and spirit that has made The Society the success it is today. In his own words he admits he may wear out someday—but certainly never rust out.

On April 1st of this year Lyle Kirk celebrated his 11th anniversary with The Society For The Blind and his 37th year in public service. We just thought it was time for all of us—directors, staff, and society members alike to publicly say thank you, Mr. Kirk . . . and Mrs. Kirk. We think you're doing a great job.



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